PATENT SPECIFICATION

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DRAWINGS ATTACHED

1 257 792

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(54) CONTAINER, PARTICULARLY SUITABLE FOR EGGS

(71) We, THE BRITISH PETROLEUM COMPANY LIMITED, of Britannic House, Moor Lane, London, E.C.2, England, a company incorporated in accordance with the Laws of England, do hereby declare the invention, for which we pray that a patent may be granted to us, and the method by which it is to be performed, to be particularly described in and by the following statement:—

This invention relates to a container and particularly a container suitable for eggs.

For many years eggs have been transported and sold in disposable egg boxes. These boxes are usually made of moulded pulp and have a base and top with an integral hinge and a locking device. The base section is generally moulded to provide pockets in which the eggs can nest, separated by ribs which keep the eggs apart and strengthen the base. The cover is usually plain, but may be indented to hold the eggs more firmly. The locking device is often mounted on a flap hinged to the base section which forms a positive closure with some device on the lid. Many such closures have been proposed.

We have now produced a new and improved locking device.

Thus according to the present invention there is provided a container particularly suitable for eggs comprising (1) a base section with base and side walls, (2) a cover section with top and side walls, and (3) a resilient locking tab or tabs, the cover section being hinged to the base section along at least part of one side and the locking tab or tabs projecting upwards from a side wall of the base section or downwards from a side wall of the cover section and being provided with one or more projections, depressions or slots extending in a plane substantially perpendicular to the plane of the tabs which engage with flanges depressions or projections on the outside of the wall of the cover section if the tab is on the base section, or on the outside of the wall of the base section if the tab is on the cover section when the container is closed to hold the container in a closed position.

Preferably egg retaining pockets are formed in the base section.

Preferably the tab has two projections facing inwards towards the side walls of the container.

The tab will normally be mounted on the cover section of the container and be a partial continuation of one of its side walls. Usually the projections on the tab will engage in the recesses which occur between the egg pockets which are usually formed in the base. The container and tab are made of a resilient material that allows the projections to be held locked into the recesses but also permits the tab to be pulled back far enough to free the projections from the recesses and allow the box to open. Alternatively the projections may lock on to a flange formed round the edge of the base or cover sections.

The container is preferably of rectangular plan.

Preferably the eggs are kept from touching each other by ribs between the egg retaining pockets. The cover may be plain but can have indented sides corresponding to the pocket divisions in the bottom section to hold the eggs more firmly. The usual size is a 6 cell container, but many other sizes have been used. The sides of both sections of the container preferably slope outwards slightly so that the perimeter of the container where the cover and base sections meet is greater than the perimeter of the top and bottom surfaces of the box.

The container may be made of any convenient material such as moulded pulp but is preferably constructed from an expanded thermoplastic resin such as polystyrene.

The invention is illustrated by the drawings accompanying the Provisional Specification in which Fig. 1 is isometric view of an egg box according to this invention and Fig. 2 is a section through the box on the line A—A. With reference to the drawings the egg box comprises a base section (1) and a cover

section (2) connected to the base through a hinge (not shown) which is integral with the base (1) and cover (2). A resilient tab (3) extends downwards from the cover section (2) of which it forms an integral part. Two projections (4) are formed in the tab facing inwards towards the walls of the base (1) and when the box is closed these projections lock into the depressions (5) between the egg pockets in the base (1). To open the box the top of the tab (3) is pulled back away from the walls of the base (1) which releases the projections (4) from the depressions (5).

WHAT WE CLAIM IS:—

1. A container particularly suitable for eggs comprising (1) a base section with base and side walls, (2) a cover section with top and side walls, and (3) a resilient locking tab or tabs, the cover section being hinged to the base section along at least part of one side and the locking tab or tabs projecting upwards from a side wall of the base section or downwards from a side wall of the cover section and being provided with one or more projections, depressions or slots extending in a plane substantially perpendicular to the plane of the tab which engage with flanges, depressions or projections on the outside of the wall of the cover section if the tab is on the base section, or on the outside of the wall of the base section if the tab is on the cover section when the container is closed to hold the container in a closed position.

2. Container according to claim 1 where egg retaining pockets are formed in the base section.

3. Container according to claim 1 or claim 2 where the tab has two projections facing inwards towards the side walls of the container.

4. Container according to any of the preceding claims where the tab is a continuation of one wall of the cover section.

5. Container according to claims 2, 3 and 4 where the projections on the tab engage in recesses between the egg retaining pockets in the base section when the container is closed.

6. Container according to claim 3 where the projections lock on to a flange formed round the edge of the base or cover section.

7. Container according to any of the preceding claims when made of foamed polystyrene.

8. Container as described with reference to the drawings accompanying the Provisional Specification.

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1257792 PROVISIONAL SPECIFICATION
1 SHEET This drawing is a reproduction of the Original on a reduced scale

FIG. 1.

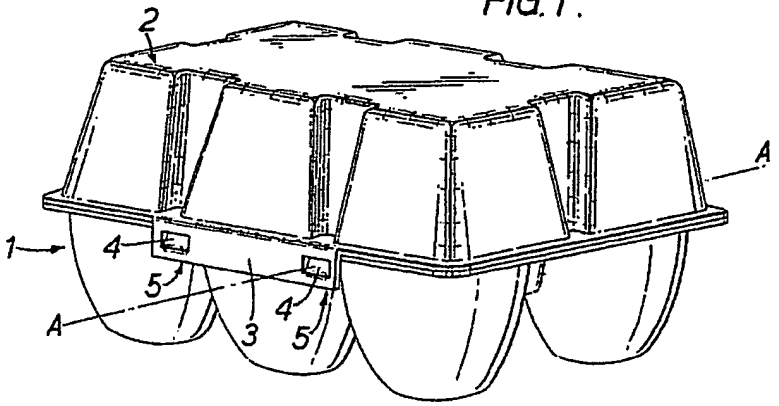

FIG. 2.